

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-11, 14-16, and 20 are now pending in the application. Claims 1 and 14-16 are currently amended. Claims 12, 13, and 17-19 are cancelled by this amendment. No new claims are added. Support for the foregoing amendment can be found throughout the specification, drawings, and claims as originally filed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

### **REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103**

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 11, and 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gibson (U.S. Pat. No. 4,659,873) ("Gibson"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5, 9, 10, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gibson in view of Sandbach (U.S. Pat. No. 6,452,479) ("Sandbach"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The amended claim set now contains a single independent claim incorporating all the subject matter previously found in cancelled claim 13. The dependent claims are now all dependent on claim 1 at least. It is therefore submitted that each claim of the claim set incorporates subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record, as acknowledged by the Examiner in Paragraph 15 of the Office Action. It is thus submitted that the subject matter in each of the claims is novel and non-obvious over the cited references.

### ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

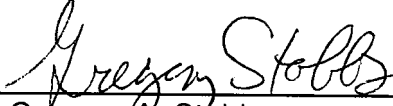
The Examiner states that claim 13 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 13 has been cancelled thereby rendering this objection moot. However, the amended claims are based on the subject matter previously contained in cancelled claim 13 which had been dependent upon claim 1.

### CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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